



# Free Books and Activities: Bookflix

by irrc2013

School children in Iowa have an amazing opportunity to have many books at their fingertips. The Iowa statewide AEA system purchased Bookflix for all students across the state who are enrolled in school. Bookflix, created by children's publisher Scholastic, offers a multitude of reading resources for students, families, and teachers.

Bookflix is a tool that many families can use at home to support reading and it is also a tool that teachers could promote as a free resource for families. Schools have a log in and password that they can send home with all students grades K-3.

## Fiction-Non-fiction Pairs

Books on Bookflix are organized by categories such as "Animals and Nature," "Adventure," and "People and Places." Once you select a category, there are many options of book pairs to choose from. Each pair offers a fiction text and a non-fiction text. For example, one pair includes *Harry the Dirty Dog* and *Keeping Clean*. There are many well-known stories included in the Bookflix collection.

## Videos and eBooks

You have the option to "watch the story" which is where the computer/device will read aloud the fiction text and show the pictures (sometimes in a moving format). The "read the book" option refers to the non-fiction text and you can have the computer/device read aloud the text or you can choose to read it yourself. Any key vocabulary have the option of clicking on them and having them read aloud. There are many pairs that offer Spanish translations as well.

## Puzzlers

After reading the story, you can do some of the activities in the Puzzlers section. This typically provides comprehension or vocabulary building activities that relate to the story. There is an interactive “Which Came First?” activity where it gives three events and children have to place the events in the correct sequence based on the story. It even has a little bird that does some break dancing when you get all of them correct! Even a preschooler who cannot read yet, is able to complete this activity by having someone read aloud the events and enter their responses.

Bookflix also offers author biographies, web links, and resources for educators, parents, and librarians. It is a tool that can be used in many daily activities—at home or at school.

If you aren’t sure of how to access Bookflix, your school librarian should be able to provide you with log-in information. Google “Bookflix” and Scholastic offers a video overview and a free webinar on using it.